



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/069,728	04/29/98	MURPHY	S MICL.042

JEFFREY A PYLE  
ARNOLD WHITE AND DURKEE  
P O BOX 77210  
HOUSTON TX 77210

LM02/0217

EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2775

4

DATE MAILED:

02/17/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/069,728

Applicant(s)

Murphy

Examiner

Fritz Alphonse

Group Art Unit

2775



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2775

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 17 line 3, "mouse the computer" should be replaced by ---mouse to the computer--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-3, 8-12, 14-17, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Owen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,670,989).

As to claims 1, Owen (fig. 1) shows a method for entering data into a computer, comprising: anchoring an electrical cord (18) connecting a peripheral input device (16) to the computer apparatus (12), (col. 6, lines 31-40; col.7, lines 3-18); positioning the peripheral input device; and retracting slack in the electrical cord as the peripheral input device is positioned (col.7, lines 38 through col.8 lines 3).

Art Unit: 2775

As to claims 2-3 and 8-11, Owen (fig. 1) shows a method, wherein anchoring the electrical cord includes anchoring the electrical cord (18) to a desktop (30), wherein anchoring the electrical cord includes at least one of adhering and fastening an anchor to the desktop (col. 9, lines 55-61), wherein positioning the peripheral input device includes positioning a mouse, wherein positioning the peripheral input device includes positioning a pointer displayed by the computer (col. 7, lines 63 through col. 8, line 3), wherein retracting slack in the electrical cord includes retracting the slack into the peripheral input device, wherein retracting slack in the electrical cord includes retracting the slack into an anchor (col. 7, lines 38-47; claim 1).

As to claims 12, Owen (fig. 1) shows a method for entering data into a computer apparatus (12), comprising: affixing an electrical cord (18) to a work surface (30), the electrical cord (18) connecting a peripheral input device (16) to the computer (12), moving the peripheral input device, and retracting slack in the electrical cord as the peripheral input device is moved (col. 7, lines 3-15).

In addition, as to claims 14-16, Owen (figs. 1, 7) show a method wherein anchoring the electrical cord to the work surface includes at least one of adhering and fastening an anchor (10) to the work surface (30), and wherein moving the peripheral input device includes moving a mouse (16) and a pointer displayed by the computer and, wherein retracting slack in the electrical cord includes retracting the slack into at least one of the peripheral input device and an anchor (see abstract).

Art Unit: 2775

As to claims 17, Owen (fig. 1) shows a method for entering data into a computer, comprising: anchoring an electrical cord (18) to a work surface (30), the electrical cord connecting a mouse (16) to the computer apparatus (12); positioning the mouse; and retracting slack in the electrical cord as the mouse is positioned (col. 7, lines 38 through col. 8 lines 3).

As to claims 19-21, the claims have substantially the limitations of claims 14-16, therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claims 14-16 above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-7, 13, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owen.

As to claims 4-7, Owen does not disclose a method wherein anchoring the electrical cord includes anchoring the electrical cord to a computer chassis and a mouse pad; and wherein anchoring the electrical cord includes at least one of adhering and fastening an anchor to the computer chassis and the mouse pad.

However, this is obvious, the Examiner takes the "Official Notice" adhering and fastening an anchor to the computer chassis, the mouse pad or the work surface is an obvious choice in design which would not modify the operation of the system.

Art Unit: 2775

As to claims 13, 18, the claims have substantially the limitations of claims 4-7, therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claims 4-7 above.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cantley et al. (U.S. Pat No. 4,901, 938) discloses an electrical cord retractors which wind-up and store electrical cords when they are not in use.

Showronski et al. (U.S. Pat No. 5,535,960) discloses a cord reel assembly which maintains a length of stationary wire and a length of shielded retractable wire around a spool.

Makous (U.S. Pat No. 5,579,657) discloses an anti-theft device for small portable equipment and method.

Graybill (U.S. Pat No. 5,669,571) discloses an electrical cord storage and dispensing organizer.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

Art Unit: 2775

(703)308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please label


"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse whose telephone number is (703) 308-8534.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached on (703) 305-9720.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



F. Alphonse

Art Unit: 2775

February 4, 2000



STEVEN J. SARAS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2700